

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

JACQAU L. MARTIN,)	
)	4:03cv3130
Plaintiff,)	
)	MEMORANDUM AND ORDER
vs.)	(Appeal)
)	
UNKNOWN SERRELL, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

The appellant, JacQaus L. Martin, a prisoner, has filed a Notice of Appeal and an Application for Leave to Proceed In Forma Pauperis ("IFP") on appeal (Filing Nos. 156 and 157). This court previously granted the plaintiff leave to proceed IFP in the district court, and Fed. R. App. P. 24(a)(3) therefore applies to this appeal.¹

While the plaintiff will be granted leave to proceed IFP on appeal, the Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA") nevertheless requires the plaintiff to pay the full amount of the \$255 appellate filing fees by making monthly payments to the court, even if the plaintiff receives leave to proceed IFP on appeal. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b); Henderson v. Norris, 129 F.3d 481, 483-84 (8th Cir. 1997).

¹Fed. R. App. P. 24(a)(3) states:

(a) Leave to Proceed in Forma Pauperis....
(3) Prior Approval. A party who was permitted to proceed in forma pauperis in the district-court action, or who was determined to be financially unable to obtain an adequate defense in a criminal case, may proceed on appeal in forma pauperis without further authorization, unless the district court – before or after the notice of appeal is filed– certifies that the appeal is not taken in good faith or finds that the party is not otherwise entitled to proceed in forma pauperis. In that event, the district court must state in writing its reasons for the certification or finding.

As set forth in Henderson v. Norris, when a district court receives a prisoner's Notice of Appeal in a civil action, the court assesses the \$255 appellate filing fees. If certified trust account information has not been provided to the court with the Notice of Appeal, the court requests the information from the prisoner's institution. When the district court receives the certified copy of the inmate's trust account information, the court:

(a) calculates the initial partial appellate filing fee as provided by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1), or determines that the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(4) apply . . .

(b) notifies the prison officials to collect and pay the initial partial appellate filing fee from the prisoner's trust account and to calculate and pay the remaining installments to the clerk of the district court until the whole of the appellate filing fee has been paid in full as provided by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2); and

(c) sends a copy of the collection order to the prisoner.²

Id. at 484-85.

In this case, the court has not received a certified copy of the appellant's trust account information for the past six (6) months. Until such information is received, the court will grant the appellant provisional leave to proceed IFP on appeal, and the Clerk of Court shall request the necessary information from the appropriate officer for the appellant's institution. Upon receipt of the financial information, the court will calculate the amount of the initial partial appellate filing fee.

²If the district court does not receive a certified copy of the prisoner's prison account within 30 days of the Notice of Appeal, the court shall impose an initial partial appellate filing fee of \$35 or such other reasonable amount as is warranted by available information.

After payment of the initial partial appellate filing fee, the remaining part of the fees shall be collected by the plaintiff's institution in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2)³, which states:

(b)(2) After payment of the initial partial filing fee, the prisoner shall be required to make monthly payments of 20 percent of the preceding month's income credited to the prisoner's account. The agency having custody of the prisoner shall forward payments from the prisoner's account to the clerk of the court each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10 until the filing fees are paid.

Leave to proceed IFP on appeal does not exempt the plaintiff from liability for payment of the full \$255 appellate filing fees in installments regardless of the outcome of the appeal.

In addition, district courts should continue to certify pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) and Fed. R. App. P. 24(a) whether an appeal by an appellant who has moved in the district court to proceed IFP on appeal is or is not taken in good faith. If the district court concludes that such an appeal is not taken in good faith, the court shall, pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 24(a), state in writing the reasons for the denial. Henderson v. Norris, 129 F.3d at 485. In this case, the appeal is taken in good faith.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Filing No. 157, the appellant's Application for Leave to Proceed In Forma Pauperis ("IFP") on appeal, is provisionally granted;
2. That the Clerk of Court shall request the necessary trust account information from the financial officer for the plaintiff's institution; and

³By filing a Notice of Appeal, the appellant is deemed to have consented to the deduction of filing fee payments from his inmate trust account.

3. That upon receipt of the trust account information, the court will calculate the initial partial appellate filing fee and notify the plaintiff, the plaintiff's institution, and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals accordingly.

DATED this 14th day of March, 2006.

BY THE COURT:

s/Laurie Smith Camp
United States District Judge